Rationale:

While brainstorming for this unit I wanted my learners to be as engaged as possible. I wanted activities that would make them think and try to dispel any stereotypes they may have already learned. Bringing real life into the classroom is very important for me so that is why in almost every activity I tried to have the students share things from their own life. For example in lesson two I have them write down a family/cultural tradition that they never want to lose and why it is important for them. This will then be displayed for the rest of the class and the school to see. I also designed my lessons to have students feel proud of themselves and realize that although there may be differences between them and other students that those differences are what make them unique and important to the world. Bringing in student’s parents of various cultures will hopefully make that student feel proud of their culture and where they come from. I also try to make the class a community where each student has a role and will hopefully display that role throughout the year. This will make the classroom more welcome and opening for the students knowing that they are important to the class.

Many of my activities focus around group discussions. I want the students to tell me what they are thinking and feeling rather than me telling them what to think and feel. This is a way to get to know my learners and what all needs to be done for them to reach the expected outcome. Many of the activities deal with the student’s experiences and lives which may engage some passive learners during discussions and activities because it is something they already know. This will also help students who aren’t as strong in the classroom because the topics aren’t abstract to them. I would hope that my classroom would be very diverse while teaching this unit because it would only benefit the students more. If there is a lot of diversity then there would be more stories, more parents/guardians could come in and talk, and more hands on learning rather than just reading about different cultures in books. Using inquiry is one of the main ways to engage learners and that is why I developed my lessons around a variety of questions so that the students are teaching each other rather than myself being the only teacher within the classroom. I think this unit covers the student’s needs and is developed to have the students actively participate.